

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge Chesterfield County, SC

The Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of more than 540 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. These refuges, encompassing more than 90 million acres, protect and enhance a wide variety of habitats, ensuring the survival of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Carolina Sandhills NWR was established in 1939 to restore wildlife and habitats of the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem. The refuge supports a variety of plants and animals including 190 species of birds, 42 species of mammals, 41 species of reptiles, 25 species of amphibians, and more than 800 species of plants.

Sport fishing on Carolina Sandhills NWR is permitted on approximately 310 acres of water designated on the map in this brochure. Fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State regulations and subject to the following special conditions:

Open Season

All lakes and pools shown on the reverse map, **except Martins Lake**, are open for fishing year round unless otherwise designated by signs as being closed to fishing.

As indicated on this map, Lynches River and the bridge areas on Black Creek are also open year round.

Refuge Hours

Visitors are permitted on the refuge from one hour before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Species, Limits and Equipment

Same as State regulations with the following exceptions:

Boat trailers or vehicles are not allowed to back into the water except at a designated boat ramp. Boat ramps are provided at Pool D, Pool L, Honkers Lake and Mays Lake. All other lakes are open to boats, but boats must be hand loaded and unloaded. Boats should not be skidded up and down dams or on water control structures.

Only electric motors are allowed. Gas motors are not allowed. Boats with permanently mounted gas motors are allowed as long as the propeller is locked out of the water.

Bank fishing is allowed on all open lakes. Fish baskets, nets, set hooks, trotlines, and bowfishing are prohibited.

At Mays and Honkers lakes, the creel limit on largemouth bass is five (5) fish per person per day. All bass must be a minimum length of 12 inches.

Oxpen Lake is designated as adult-youth fishing only. A youth (under 16 years) must be actively fishing and accompanied by no more than two adults at least 18 years of age. Adults are not allowed to fish unless they are accompanied by a youth. The creel limit on channel catfish is five (5) fish per person per day.

It is unlawful to snag fish by pulling or jerking a device equipped with one or more hooks through the water to impale fish.

Permits

No special refuge permit is required. State fishing license required.

General

Anglers must keep away from wood duck and goose nests and not disturb or harm other wildlife.

Swimming and wading are prohibited.

Vehicles

Use only roads and trails that are designated as being open for public travel. Maximum speed is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Park vehicles off roads, dams and trails so that they don't impede traffic or cause a safety hazard.

The provisions of this special regulation supplement the general regulations which govern fishing on wildlife refuge areas and which are set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32.

**This is your refuge. Please keep it clean.
Report violations.**



Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge
23734 Highway 1
McBee, SC 29101
843/335 8401
email: FW4RWC@carolinasandhills.fws.gov
<http://carolinasandhills.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

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Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

- Open fishing area unless posted as closed to fishing
- Walk-in lakes
- Closed fishing area
- Refuge headquarters
- Refuge boundary
- Paved roads
- Unpaved roads
- Bridge areas open for fishing

